

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT	
SUBJECT	1. Agricultural Cooperative at Gaikovo Village, Turgovishte District 2. Miscellaneous Agricultural Information	DATE DISTR.	6 March 1953
DATE OF INFO.		NO. OF PAGES	2
PLACE ACQUIRED		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD
		REFERENCES	25X1

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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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Agricultural Cooperative at Gaikovo, Turgovishte District

1. A kolkhoz was created in 1949 in Gaikovo village (sic), Turgovishte district (N 43-14, E 26-33), by nine farmers. Government officials, in order to force peasants to join, assigned 1,000 hectares of the best land in the area to the kolkhoz and gave the peasants other land of the worst quality in compensation. As a result, the peasants were unable to meet their delivery quotas and pay their taxes.
2. At this point, Communist leaders began to propagandize in favor of the kolkhoz and promised the peasants reduced taxes, exemption from the forced delivery of products, and permission to keep one cow, five sheep, and five hectares of land as private property if they would join the cooperative. The promises concerning tax reductions and exemption from forced deliveries were not kept and the peasants consequently decided to leave the kolkhoz. Sixty of the farmers applied to the Ministry of Agriculture in Sofia for permission to leave the cooperative. The Militia from Turgovishte then moved in and arrested Mishko Dimitrov, Mate Nikolov, and Stoyan Dobrev, who had initiated the action; the other peasants were frightened into withdrawing their applications during the course of the interrogation.
3. In 1952, pressure was increased to force people to join the cooperative. Since peasants who were not members of the cooperative could not send their children to school, many of them applied, but some of them, such as Kolya Khristov, Penko Atanasov, Ivan Ivanov, Raso Ivanov, and others, were not accepted because they were suspected of being enemies of the regime.

Miscellaneous Agricultural Information

4. Bulgarian peasants are required to deliver the following products to the State:
 - a. Seed, grain: Wheat, corn, barley, oats, rye, buckwheat, beans, and peas;
 - b. Fruits: Apples, plums, grapes, nuts, etc.;

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(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "#".)

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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- c. Plants used in industry: Sunflower, plants producing ethereal oils, soybeans, cotton, tobacco, and sugar beets;
 - d. Vegetables: Paprika, black onions, white onions, potatoes, and cabbage (these items are required only for kolkhozes); and
 - e. Meat milk, and other dairy products; fodder.
5. The quotas are set by the District Committees on the basis of the area cultivated and the type of cultivation. Every peasant receives a written order concerning the quantity and type of products which he is to deliver. The items are purchased by the following State enterprises:
- a. Direktsiya na Zurneni Khrani (Directorate for Food Grains); and
 - b. Kooperativeni S'yuz na Rayona (District Cooperative Union).
6. As soon as a peasant delivers his quota, he is given a receipt which has to be shown to the government officials who control production and delivery. Peasants who do not meet their delivery quotas are severely punished, usually with fines and imprisonment.
7. The conditions described above create much dissatisfaction among the peasants, making them wish for war and a consequent change of regime. Their status causes many to attempt to escape from Bulgaria.
8. The number of livestock has decreased considerably in the past two years. This is partly due to high delivery quotas and partly due to the fact that independent peasants have lost interest in cattle breeding because private individuals cannot buy, sell, or slaughter cattle. Cattle may be delivered only to cooperatives.

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